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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6100

May 22, 2012

The Honorable Kent Conrad
Chairman
United States Senate Committee on the Budget
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20150

Dear Chairman Conrad:

Section 106 of the Budget Control Act (BCA) requires the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget to file allocations and aggregate spending levels that are consistent with the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO's) March 2012 baseline. On March 20, 2012, you filed such levels in the Senate to be printed in the *Congressional Record* (at pages S1832-S1833).

I was therefore surprised to find that the filed outlay aggregate for fiscal year 2013 is not consistent with CBO's baseline but, instead, appears to reflect the higher outlay level for discretionary spending in the President's budget request (as estimated by CBO). The President's blueprint was voted down unanimously by the Senate.

Specifically, the filed outlay aggregate for fiscal year 2013 is approximately \$14 billion higher than CBO's baseline figure. The aggregate on-budget outlay level filed with the Senate is \$2,944,872 million, but the CBO baseline for on-budget outlays is only \$2,931,228 million. The filed figure, therefore, does not satisfy section 106 of the BCA.

Furthermore, section 106(b)(2)(B) of the BCA requires that the mandatory spending allocations to Senate authorizing committees be consistent with the CBO baseline. The CBO March 2012 baseline amount for the Committee on Finance for fiscal year 2013 is \$1,328,395 million. But the allocation filed on March 20 (\$1,328,474 million) is \$79 million higher than the CBO baseline figure.

Before the Senate takes up appropriation bills for fiscal year 2013, I request that you review your allocations and re-file the enforceable levels and related committee allocations at amounts that are consistent with CBO's March 2012 baseline, as required by the BCA.

Very truly yours,



Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member